

Notice of Allowability

Applicant(s)

10/712,532

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

Applicant(s)

STEPHAN, FRANK

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/14/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William E. Curry on 12/27/04.

The application has been amended as follows: In the Abstract of the disclosure [Embodiments of the present invention relate to logistics management software. The software includes a user interface configurable to receive inputs relating to logistics operations in user-defined language] has been deleted. The new abstract should be added. In a system and method for logistics management according to embodiments of the present invention, a user interface may present a user with input fields that correlate naturally with typical logistics processes. More specifically, the user interface may comprise: a step field to receive a value relating to a current step in a logistics process, and data associated therewith; a predecessor step field to receive a value relating to a step in the logistics process previous to the current step, and data associated therewith; and a mode field to receive a value relating to an action to be performed based on values received in the step and predecessor step fields. The values acceptable by the fields may be terms that are descriptive of typical activities in a particular user's business, so that using the interface has a natural or intuitive feel for the user.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-26 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant has claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention which are not found in the prior art either singularly or in combination a system comprising a computer processor; and a storage medium to store computer-executable instructions executable by the computer processor to implement a user interface to receive a set of value combinations corresponding to operations in a logistics process; a customizing layer to map the value combinations to functionality for performing the operations; and functionality responsive to the customizing layer to perform the operations; wherein the user interface comprises a step field to receive a value relating to a current step in a logistics process and data associated therewith; a predecessor step field to receive a value relating to a step in a logistics process previous to the current step, and data associated therewith; and a mode field to receive a value relating to an action to be performed based on values received in the step and predecessor step fields. These features are not found or suggested in the prior art.

The present invention is directed to the system comprising a user interface to receive a set of value combinations corresponding to operations in a logistics process; a customizing layer to map the value combinations to functionality for performing the operations; and functionality responsive to the customizing layer to perform the operations; wherein the user interface comprises a step field to receive a value relating to a current step in a logistics process and data associated therewith; a predecessor step field to receive a value relating to a step in a logistics

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process previous to the current step, and data associated therewith; and a mode field to receive a value relating to an action to be performed based on values received in the step and predecessor step fields. Each independent claim is identified “a customizing layer to map the value combinations to functionality for performing the operations; and functionality responsive to the customizing layer to perform the operations; wherein the user interface comprises a step field to receive a value relating to a current step in a logistics process and data associated therewith; a predecessor step field to receive a value relating to a step in a logistics process previous to the current step, and data associated therewith; and a mode field to receive a value relating to an action to be performed based on values received in the step and predecessor step fields.” The closest prior art of Pachauri and Johnston, Jr. disclose a conventional to perform actions on the database that are dictated by defined task groups and functions roles; either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render the above underline limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”


Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cao (Kevin) Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2173

12/27/04